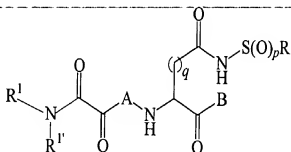


INHIBITORS OF THE ICE/ced-3 FAMILY
OF CYSTEINE PROTEASES

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

This invention is directed to novel oxamyl dipeptide ICE/ced-3 family inhibitor compounds having the following structure:



wherein A, B, R, R¹, R^{1'}, p and q are as defined herein. The invention is also directed to pharmaceutical compositions containing one or more of these compounds, as well as to the use of such compositions in the treatment of patients suffering inflammatory, autoimmune and neurodegenerative diseases, for the prevention of ischemic injury, and for the preservation of organs that are to undergo a transplantation procedure.